Revival of the Pondicherry express train

2276. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pondicherry administration has urged Government to revive the Pondicherry express train which was discontinued four years ago;

(b) whether Government propose to revive the said train; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway line from Pondicherry to Cuddalore

2277. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recieved some representations from the people of Pondicherry to start new Railway line from Pondicherry to Cuddalore, being a vital sector from the point of view of industries and travelling public; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the demand; if so, by when the said scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Pondicherry and Cuddalore are already connected by a rail line *via* Villupuram. Due to acute constraint of resources, there is no proposal for a direct rail link between Pondicherry and Cuddalore.

New Railway Terminal at Kurla in Bombay

2278. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a New Railway Terminal at Kurla in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the area to be covered and the salient feature and date of its commissioning;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to legal problems, the commisioning has been delayed; and

(d) what are the reasons to drop Vikhroli and to choose Kurla as the site for the said terminal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the first phase, two platform faces, with 6000sq m of platform shelter, 3 stabling lines, 2 pit lines loco shed and station building with 2300 sq. m area etc. are to be provided at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.95 crores. Major portion of work in Phase-I is proposed to be completed in 1989, subject to clearance of a High Court case and removal of hutments (encroachments).

(d) Kurla, being nearer to Bombay, is better suited as a terminal, as compared to Vikhroli.

Construction of road over-bridge near Vidya Vihar railway station in Bombay

2279. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new road over-bridge has been approved for construction near Vidya Vihar Railway Station in Bombay; and